

#9: Enjoying Christ with God on the Ground of Oneness

(Crystallization-Study of Deuteronomy) 2020/4/20-26

Bird's eyes view: **I.** The enjoyment of Christ with God at the unique place of God's choice for the keeping of the oneness of God's people. In order to meet as the church, we must experience the cross for the crucifying of the self, for the overthrowing of "reasoning and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God", and for the exalting of Christ alone. **II.** The unique ground of Jerusalem, the place where the temple as God's dwelling place was built on Mount Zion, typifies the unique ground of God's choice, the ground of oneness. **III.** The church life on the ground of oneness is today's Jerusalem; within the church life there must be a group of overcomers, and these overcomers are today's Zion. It is one thing to be in the church life, but it is another thing to be an overcomer. **IV.** We need to live a life of laboring upon Christ, a life of enjoying Christ personally so that we may enjoy Him together collectively for the building up of the Body of Christ as the house of God for God's expression and as the kingdom of God for God's dominion. **V.** In order to be today's overcomers, we must maintain the ground of oneness, God's unique choice, without elevating anything other than Christ.

Crucial Point(1): Meeting in the mingled spirit and in the ground of oneness of locality to keep the oneness and gain the blessing

OL1: The people of God should always be one; there should be no divisions among them. The unique name into which God's people should gather is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the reality of which name is the Spirit; to be designated by any other name is to be denominated, divided; this is spiritual fornication.

OL2: In the New Testament God's habitation, His dwelling place, is particularly located in our mingled spirit, our human spirit regenerated and indwelt by the divine Spirit; in our meeting for the worship of God, we must exercise our spirit and do everything in our spirit.

OL3: In our worship of God we must have the genuine application of the cross of Christ, signified by the altar, by rejecting the flesh, the self, and the natural life and worshipping God with Christ and Christ alone.

OL4: Apparently, we are divided by geography, for we meet in separate cities all over the world on the scriptural ground of locality—the practice of having one church for one city, one city with only one church.

Rev.1:11...send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea. We all meet in the name of Jesus Christ, and we all meet in the mingled spirit—in the regenerated human spirit indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We gather together in this spirit, not in our concept, desire, preference, or choice....At the

entrance of the church there is the cross, and in order to meet as the church we must experience the cross. The flesh, the self, and the natural man cannot be in the church; they must be crucified. Therefore, we meet in the name of the Lord Jesus, in the mingled spirit, and with the cross.

One city may have many meeting halls or districts, but there is still only one church. In a large locality the church may meet in many different places, as did the church in Jerusalem. In the early days the saints met in their houses, but the meeting in each house was not a church. All the meetings in the different homes were the meetings of one church....Although we may meet separately in several meeting halls on the Lord's Day morning, and although we have prayer meetings in several dozen homes, we are still one church with one administration and one testimony. Because there is only one church in the universe, there is only one expression of the church in any given place. This is the ground of the church.

Application to young working saints/graduate students

In the Old Testament age, God's people were required to meet in Jerusalem and could not gather in the place of their own choice to keep the oneness among God's people. This Jerusalem today is, ①our human spirit, ②The oneness of the universal church (the content of the church) and the ground of oneness of the locality (the practice of the church).

John4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him. **24** God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

God is seeking those who worship in spirit and truthfulness. The spirit here is the human spirit and the truthfulness is Christ as the reality of all the offerings in the Old Testament. You should exercise your own spirit to touch God the Spirit and worship with Christ as the genuine offerings. In your soul, there are your own preferences and choices. For example, "I prefer Japanese saints to foreign saints", or the other way round, "I prefer English-speaking saints to Japanese saints", or "I prefer saints with high social status", "I prefer the place where there is people with my type", "I don't want to go where there is someone I cannot get along with" etc. these feelings are from your soul. Without putting these feelings from the soul on the cross and get together in spirit, we cannot keep the oneness among God's people.

And in the practical aspect of the church, because people are living in each locality, they

need to keep the oneness in the locality. The church is also the bride of Christ. So it shouldn't have any other name beside Christ. For instance, there is **"the church of God in Corinth"**(1Cor.1:2). This is the church which is open to everyone who lives in that locality of Corinth and it belongs to God. The church is of God, of Christ and of the saints, and we should not put any name of any person and any practice to it. If you do this, it is division and spiritual fornication. You must worship in your spirit and in the ground of oneness of the expression of the universal Body in your locality.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, God the Father is seeking the true worshippers. They are those who worship in "my spirit" and with Christ. Also I stand firmly in the ground of oneness in each locality. I keep the oneness among God's children in my spirit and in the principle of "the church of God in Corinth". May the Lord bless our church life due to this oneness and bless each one of us in the church life."

Crucial Point(2): Under the current situation of the declaration of the State of Emergency against the coronavirus, we experience Christ as the all-fitting life to become an overcomer who can cope with this rapid change

OL1: The church life on the ground of oneness is today's Jerusalem; within the church life there must be a group of overcomers, and these overcomers are today's Zion.

OL2: The overcomers as Zion are the reality of the Body of Christ and consummate the building up of the Body in the local churches to bring in the consummated holy city, New Jerusalem, the Holy of Holies as God's dwelling place, in eternity.

OL3: The church life is the right place for us to be an overcomer, but this does not mean that as long as we are in the church life, we are an overcomer; it is one thing to be in the church life, but it is another thing to be an overcomer.

Zion is the high peak, the center, the uplifting, the strengthening, the enriching, and the reality of the church, the holy city. If there are no overcomers in a local church, that church is like Jerusalem without Zion....A local church must have some overcomers, and these overcomers are the peak and the center of that local church. They are the uplifting, the strengthening, the enriching, and the reality of that local church....Once a church has some full-time workers as overcomers, that church is like Jerusalem with the peak of Zion.

The overcomers as Zion are the highlight, the center, and the reality of the church. The overcomers as today's Zion are for the consummation of the holy city (the church). They are to consummate, to finish, the

building up of the local church and to bring in the consummated New Jerusalem in eternity. In order to complete the building up of the Body, the Lord needs the overcomers, and the building up of the Body consummates in the New Jerusalem.

There are two ways before us today. We can either choose to be vitalized or choose not to be vitalized. I am presenting these two ways before us. Which way will we take? Are we going to be vitalized or not? We have to make a resolution. In **Judges 5:15** Deborah said, **"Among the divisions of Reuben / There were great resolutions in heart."** We have to make a resolution to be the overcomers, the vitalized ones. An overcomer overcomes anything that replaces Christ or that is against Christ. In the Bible there is the age of the overcomers, and there is the calling for the overcomers.

Application for young people & college students

Jerusalem signifies the today's church life, and Zion in Jerusalem signifies overcomers in the church. Relationship between the church life and the overcomers can be seen in the relationship between Jerusalem and Zion. Zion is the high peak, the uplifting, and the beauty. In the same way, overcomers in the church are the high peak, the uplifting and the beauty of the church.

Before you, there are the way to become an overcomer and the way to become a failed Christian. You must think carefully about which way you choose. The primary business of students is to study, so you should not try to get away from studying or should not adopt an lukewarm attitude toward studying.

At April 7th, the State of Emergency was declared, which is effective until May 6th. Its designated provinces in Kansai are Osaka and Hyogo, in which all of elementary schools and junior/senior high schools are temporarily closed and so students will be given homework. Traveling far is prohibited in principle, and so activities of people become extremely limited. Anybody in those area designated by the State of Emergency declaration is in the same situation. You should know and experience that Christ is the all-fitting life who can fit to every situations.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, because of the declaration of the State of Emergency, our school has been closed even in this April and outside activities are limited, and so I am facing the situation that I have never experienced. However, I believe that this helps me to take Christ as the all-fitting life. My natural life cannot fit to the declaration of the State of Emergency against the coronavirus. I open to you. Let me experience you as a life that can cope with this rapid change. Lord, I respond to your call and choose the way to become an overcomer. Amen! Hallelujah!"

As an example, you are required to do your homework without going to school, that means, without classrooms or your classmates. It may be hard for you to motivate yourself to study, but instead of giving up yourself, please call on the Lord's name and encourage yourself to stay inside of the Sumo ring, inside of the realm of atmosphere of study. The Lord can strengthen you and can be your flexibility to cope with the change. Before you, there are the way to giving up easily and the way to hold your ground at the edge of the Sumo ring. Which do you choose?

Young people, please enjoy the Bible from a babe, choose the way to become an overcomer, and experience the all-fitting life at just this particular moment of the state of emergency to gain the strength to cope with the situation. It is sure that this experience will be useful for you in future. If you don't take Christ as the all-fitting life, then even after the period of this declaration of the State of Emergency ends, you don't see any improvement in you.

Crucial Point(3): In order to be today's overcomers, maintain the ground of oneness, God's unique choice, elevate Christ alone

OL1: In order to be today's overcomers, we must maintain the ground of oneness, God's unique choice, without elevating anything other than Christ; in the Lord's recovery we elevate Christ and Christ alone.

OL2: The intrinsic reason for the desolation and degradation of God's people is that Christ is not exalted by them; they do not give Him the preeminence, the first place, in everything.

Often the pagan centers of worship were located on mountains or hills or under flourishing trees. The mountains and hills signify the exaltation of something other than Christ, and the flourishing trees signify things that are beautiful and attractive. The various worship centers in today's Christianity lift up something other than Christ. In principle, these centers of worship are on a mountain or hill, the high places. However, God's people were to come to Mount Zion, the unique place chosen by God for corporate worship. The worship at the high places was a factor in the dispersion of the children of Israel.

In principle, we must destroy all the places, idols, and names. To do this is to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord. But if we insist on our own choice, we are doing what is right in our own eyes. We must fear the Lord and go to the place He has chosen.

The ground of oneness is not simply a matter of one city, one church. The ground of oneness is

deeper, richer, higher, and fuller than this. We all must learn that in this universe God has chosen only one place, and that place is the church. The church with Christ is the unique place of God's choice. In order to fulfill the word of Colossians 3:11, every other place must be utterly destroyed. We must destroy everything that is not the church with Christ. Then we will simply be in the church life enjoying Christ as the riches of the good land. As we enjoy Him with God, we will be planted in the house of the Lord, we will grow, and we will flourish. This is the proper way to have the Christian life and the church life. This is the ground of oneness. [Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.](#)

Application for the serving ones

To practice Colossians 3:11, all the saints should put their own cultural mind, religious preferences on the cross and take the unique choice of God which is the universal Body of Christ and the ground of oneness of the locality. This is to lift up the name of Christ only and not to lift up any other names and systems.

The biblical practices, for example, the system of Presbyterianism is in the Bible and it is right, but it is not right to make it a part of the name of the church. The good system of Presbyterianism cannot be considered as the same rank as the unique name of Christ and it means you bring the name of Lord Jesus down.

Also, Martin Luther was an excellent leader to recover "justification by faith" from "justification by indulgences". But the basis of "justification by faith" is the redemption of Christ. So to gain "justification by faith", you need to come to Lord Jesus, and not to Luther. Thus, we cannot add the name of Luther. Adding the name of Luther is also to bring down the name of the Lord.

All the believers must come back to the Bible. We need to come back to the pure revelation of the Bible and not human traditions, custom, experiences and preferences. Brother Watchman Nee said, "Bible is our unique standard". According to the Bible, having any special creed, fellowship and name is to take part in the work of division. The divisive work is also the works of the flesh. [Eph. 4:1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love, 3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:](#)

[Gal. 5:19-21](#) And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are such things as fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ..., enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, divisions, sects, Envyings,

[Psa. 133:1](#) Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell in unity! [2](#) It is like the fine oil upon the head That ran down upon the beard, Upon Aaron's beard, That ran down upon the hem of his garments; [3](#) Like the dew of Hermon That came down upon the mountains of Zion. For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: Life forever.

May the Lord grant you His grace to lift up only the name of the Lord to keep the oneness of the Body of Christ diligently.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I lift up the name of Lord Jesus for the children of God to be saved out of desolation and degradation and to keep the oneness of the Body of Christ. According to the revelation of the Bible, overthrow "reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God". I exercise my spirit and pass through the cross and put away my own choice and preferences to gather in the place of God's choice, Jerusalem, the ground of oneness. Bless our church life due to the oneness of God's people.

Hymns 1226

1

Oh, the church of Christ is glorious,
and we are part of it—
We're so happy that the Lord has made us one!
There's a Body in the universe and we belong to it—
Hallelujah, for the Lord has made us one!

Hallelujah for the Body!
We are members of the Body!
We are wholly for the Body!
Hallelujah, for the Lord has made us one!

2

Not the individual Christians,
but a corporate entity—
God must have it for His full expression now;
Not just individual churches
but the Body corporately—
Hallelujah, we are in the Body now!

Hallelujah for the Body!
Satan trembles at the Body!
We're victorious in the Body!
Hallelujah, we are in the Body now!

3

There are seven golden lampstands
in the nature all divine—
Nothing natural does the Body life allow.
When we're one and share God's nature,
how the lampstand then does shine—

Hallelujah, it is brightly shining now!
Hallelujah for the Body!
For the lampstands of the Body!
For the golden, shining Body!
Hallelujah, it is brightly shining now!

4

How may we express such oneness,
be divine and shining too?
Hallelujah, eating Jesus is the way!
He's the tree of life, the manna,
and the feast that's ever new—
Hallelujah, we may eat Him every day!
We are one by eating Jesus!
We're divine by eating Jesus!
How we shine by eating Jesus!
Hallelujah, eating Jesus is the way!

Hymns 1107

1

We're gathered here, O Lord, as Thy one Body:
Though we be many, yet we all are one.
We share Thy life and own that we are members,
And thus within, in life we all are one.
There is one Body in this universe,
And we express it here on earth;
We stand as one in each locality
For all to see, for all to see.

2

There is one loaf, the symbol of Thy body:
'Twas broken so that all the saints may share.
We eat this bread and, as we are partaking,
Our actual oneness with all saints declare.

3

One bread, one cup are now upon the table,
Showing that we can be naught else but one.
Christ has redeemed us, made us His own Body:
What can we say but, "Amen, Lord, we're one!"

4

We stand as one, and cannot be divided,
Because our oneness is of Christ alone.
We eat as one: one loaf, one cup partaking,
And thus our oneness visibly is shown.

5

Oh, what a joy to have this blessed oneness!
We sense that Thou, O Lord, art satisfied;
And we too share this blissful satisfaction—
Sweet foretaste of the Bridegroom with His Bride.